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The advocates of the hyoscine method point to its feature of absence of discomfort. It is perfectly proper for those who are conscientiously striving to rid themselves of this pernicious affliction to receive all the help that medical science can afford, and no expense should be spared to assist them in gaining their health with as little suffering as possible. With the criminal type the conditions are different. The patient does not want to be cured, usually rebels, and is only waiting until his time is up to go back on the drug. Those cases, if they find it a simple matter and free from inconvenience, they will be induced to again take the drug, knowing that they can be cured when they get into bad shape, without any effort or hardship, so that in some instances the most humane method is poor philanthropy.

After the case has remained 100 days free from the drug, the doctor is through, and the case becomes a sociologic problem, and prevention of drug addiction is the paramount issue.

Summarizing briefly, we find the gradual withdrawal plan the safest and the most economical, the results not only as good as any other, but bearing scrutiny for a longer period of time. As to it being a humane method, we have the word of the drug addicts who have used all treatments that they prefer the gradual withdrawal plan.—James A. Hamilton, Commissioner of Corrections, New York City.

Criminal Responsibility.—Laignel-Lavastine begins his study of this subject by repudiating the term "criminal responsibility" and using instead "penal capacity," analogous to the expressions earning capacity and civil capacity. He discusses this from various standpoints, reiterating in conclusion that the medico-legal expert does not have to pass judgment on the penal capacity. All he has to certify to is *l'anormalité, la nocivité, l'impulsivité, l'intimidabilité et la perfectibilité* of the accused. It is for the court to decide from these premises whether the penal capacity is normal, attenuated, or nil.—*J. Am. Med. A.*

The Narcotic Control Association of California.—There was formed in San Francisco on October 27 a new organization, to be known as the "Narcotic Control Association of California." This organization is made up of representatives of every civic and fraternal organization in the state of California, and also includes among its membership the officials who are charged with law enforcement in this state.

The officers are as follows: President, James A. Johnston, Warden of San Quentin Prison; vice-president, Mrs. Helen P. Sanborn, President of the San Francisco Board of Health; secretary, Louis Zeh, Secretary of the California State Board of Pharmacy; treasurer, Charles Goff, Captain of Police, San Francisco, Cal.

After a spirited meeting the resolutions given here below were passed, and, if followed up, will result in curtailing the drug traffic in this state:

WHEREAS, The Harrison Narcotic Act, the federal law providing punishments for unlawful sales and handling of narcotics is not sufficiently strict to cope with the drug evil now existing throughout the United States; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That it is the sense of this association that the Harrison Narcotic Act be amended in the following particulars:

That narcotic prescription blanks for the use of physicians, dentists and veterinarians should be printed by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, and provided free of charge.

That these blanks should be issued in numbered books and each blank numbered with a stub system; stubs to be returned to the commissioner.

That no prescriptions should be issued except on these official blanks.

That no blanks should be issued to any doctor, dentist or veterinarian, and no prescription filled by any druggist, unless duly registered under the laws of the given state.

That the penalties for violation of the Harrison Narcotic Act should be raised as follows:

For first offenders, fine of \$500 to \$2,000, to \$5,000, and imprisonment to five years.

For subsequent offenses, fine of \$2,000 to \$5,000 and imprisonment from two years to five years.

For aliens convicted of violation, deportation by the United States immigration authorities.

WHEREAS, There are certain manufacturing concerns in the United States engaged in the manufacture of narcotic drugs;

WHEREAS, A great part of the drugs of such manufacturing concerns are shipped without the United States in a lawful manner and pursuant to law, but are returned to the United States in a surreptitious and unlawful manner and used therein for unlawful purposes;

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this association that the manufacture of narcotic drugs should be by the federal government or under the strictest character of inspection and surveillance, so that every grain manufactured by them can be traced to the ultimate user; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the president of this association be and he is hereby authorized to appoint a committee to memorialize Congress to enact such federal legislation as will carry out the purposes as above indicated.

WHEREAS, The existing regulations in this country, as well as in foreign countries, are such that the unlawful sale and distribution of narcotic drugs is steadily on the increase; and

WHEREAS, There should be some better understanding between nations that shall result in a co-ordinative effort to prevent such unlawful sale of drugs; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That it is the sense of this association that the president of this association be, and he is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to appoint a committee to memorialize the President of the United States, the national Congress, and the Department of State to cause such action to be taken as will result in such better understanding, to the end that there shall be a universal cessation of the unlawful sale and distribution of narcotic drugs.—August Vollmer, Berkeley, Cal.

COURTS—LAWS

Suggestions for Relieving Congestion in the Criminal Courts of New York City.—The following letters embody a suggestion for the relief of the congestion in the criminal court calendars in New York City. The plan is said to be meeting with general public favor: